



Challenges of Implementing Effective Responses to Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo



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The Issue: Sexual Violence in Conflict

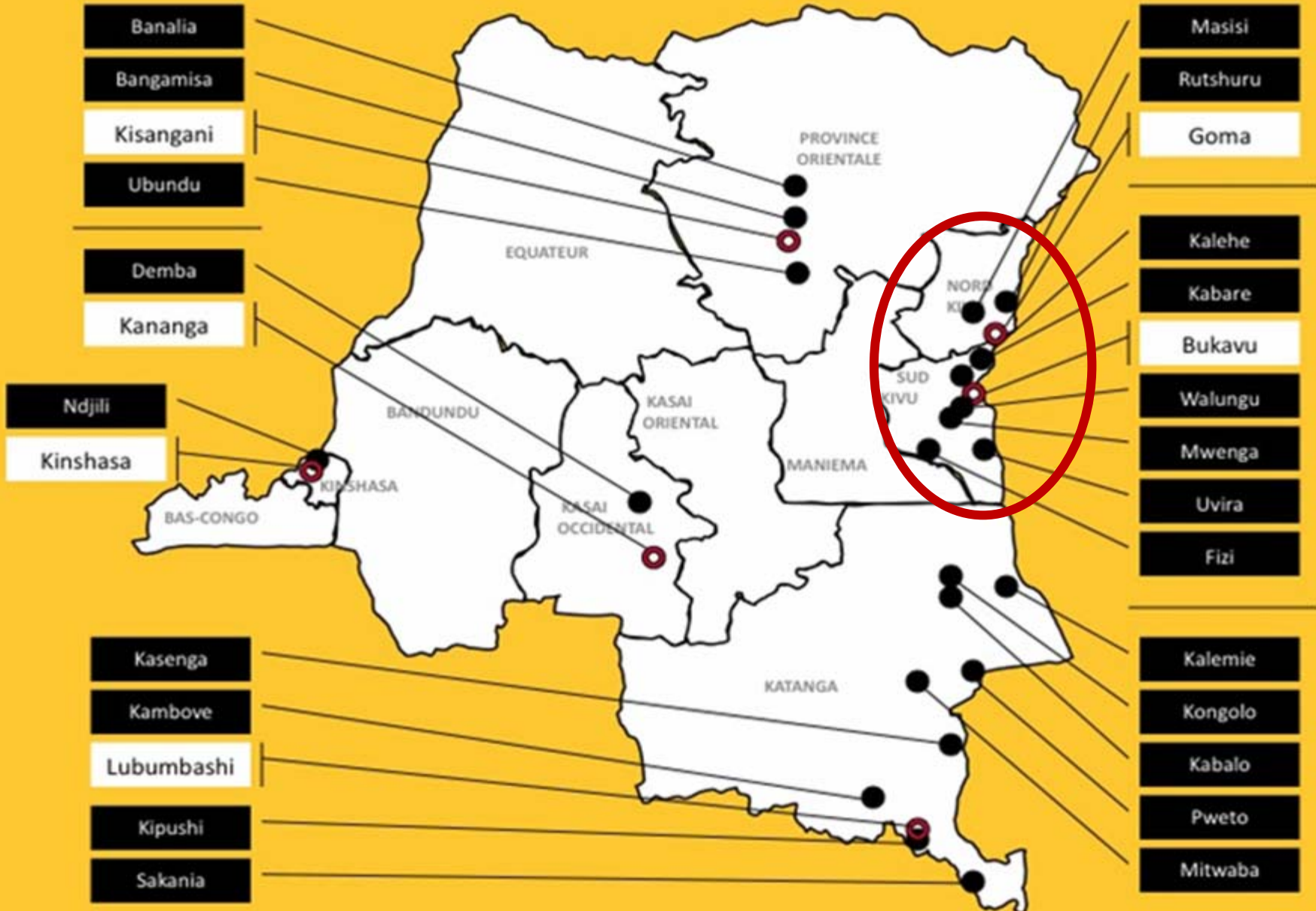


“These are not random acts of violence in the theatre of war, but a deliberate attempt to dehumanize and destroy entire communities.”

- UN Secretary General, October 2007



Where IRC Works





IRC at a glance

- ◆ 350-400 survivors per month
- ◆ 75-85% report perpetrators are members of armed groups
- ◆ One-quarter are under 18
- ◆ Periods of relative calm, interrupted by cyclical, brutal violence





IRC's GBV Program

Seeks to promote the well-being of women and girls and mitigate the immediate and long-term effects of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls in North and South Kivu





GBV Program in DRC

**Service
Provision to
Survivors**

**Social
Empowerment**

**Emergency
Response
Capabilities**

**Advocacy &
Coordination**

- ◆ ***Over 40,000 survivors assisted***
- ◆ ***Sustainable partnership with 7 national NGOs and 40 CBOs***
- ◆ ***600 women in economic empowerment activities***







Going to Scale

2002

- ◆ \$500,000 for 1 year
- ◆ 6-7 partners
- ◆ Focus on essential services
- ◆ 2-3 international NGOs doing GBV

2010

- ◆ \$13.5 million for 3 years
- ◆ Over 40 partners
- ◆ Comprehensive programming
- ◆ Countless NGOs doing GBV

CHALLENGE: How do you scale up effectively?





Challenges: Bridging gap between rhetoric and reality

Expectations

- ◆ Services provided across Eastern DRC with \$15-20 million
- ◆ Everyone knows how to address GBV
- ◆ Rape is stopped

FACT: IRC has one of the largest GBV programs in Congo. GBV programs only comprise 4% of IRC's overall budget in Congo.

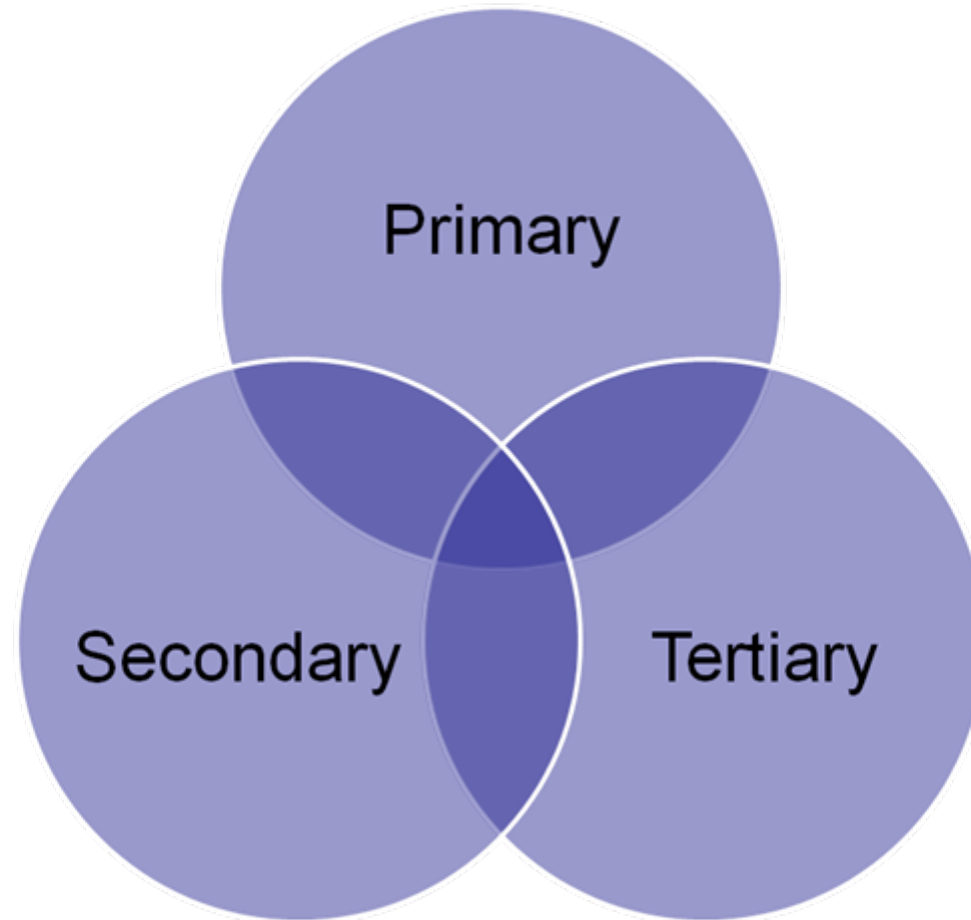
Reality

- ◆ Essential services alone require enormous investment
- ◆ No common understanding of comprehensive programming
- ◆ Prevention is long-term and requires political will





Challenge: Thinking about prevention and response



Recommendations

Develop a common understanding about what a comprehensive GBV program is and what it takes to implement it

Support more multi-year, robust GBV programs that will respond to the scale of the problem

Leverage resources going into other sectors by ensuring GBV is integrated

Invest in partnerships

Photo: AP / Jerome Delay



Questions

